

CHAPTER III

LATER VALLEY SETTLEMENTS

The early settlers who came to Provo Valley were interested in establishing homes and gaining their livelihood from agriculture. In this semi-arid region they were forced to depend largely upon irrigation to make the land productive. Those who moved in from other sections of the state were already familiar with this system of getting water to the land, and those who were new were soon impressed with its necessity. A brief reference to the map of the area shows the pioneer settlements strung along the river and streams like ornaments on a tree. It would not be an overstatement to say that in the beginning the size of the settlement was almost directly proportional to the amount of accessible irrigation water. The importance of irrigation and the way in which the pioneers cooperated to obtain the necessary water is the subject of a later chapter. Suffice it here to say that the availability of irrigation water was the determining factor in the selection of sites for pioneer settlement in Wasatch County.

Later in the County's history a number of other factors gave rise to settlements and impetus to the growth of those already established. The growth of Keetley can only be explained in terms of successful mining, and work in railroad shops meant much to Soldier's Summit. We have considered the settlement of Heber previously. How and why the other towns and cities of the County grew is the subject of this chapter.

MIDWAY

Provo Valley is roughly divided into an eastern and western half by the river that runs through it. On either side of the river a number of large streams lattice the

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The first Th

¹⁸Ibid.

A black and white photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, there are dense, dark trees and foliage. The middle ground shows a valley with scattered buildings and fields. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a sky with large, fluffy clouds.

and Center Creeks on the eastern side of the valley.¹ At about the same time a number of settlers began work along Snake Creek on the west side. This was the beginning of what later came to be known as Midway.

¹John Crook, "A Statement of Securing the Water Rights of Heber City," (MSS in possession of Clark Crook, Heber Utah, 1889).

²Statement by Emily Coleman, personal interview, 1952.

William Beeler
E. Bates
John Morton
Robert Cunningham
William Meeks
Lucien Jacobs
Dr. John Gerber
George Dabing
John Wintzsch
John Huber
Moroni Blood
Washington Clift
Ira Jacobs
Samuel Thompson
Edwin Bronson
T. Ritter
George Snyder
Simon Hosenbottom
J.A. Rooper
Jermiah Roloff
Sidney Epperson

John Faucett Sr.
Jacob Burgeher Sr.
John Buhler
Jacob Bunler
C. Schoney
Ulrich Abegglen
Conrad Abegglen
Richard Shinkov
Peter Appleby
Simon Schmeidler
Lieber Sulzer
Peter Galli
Christian Abegglen
Norton Jacobs
William Lohman
E. Van Wagner

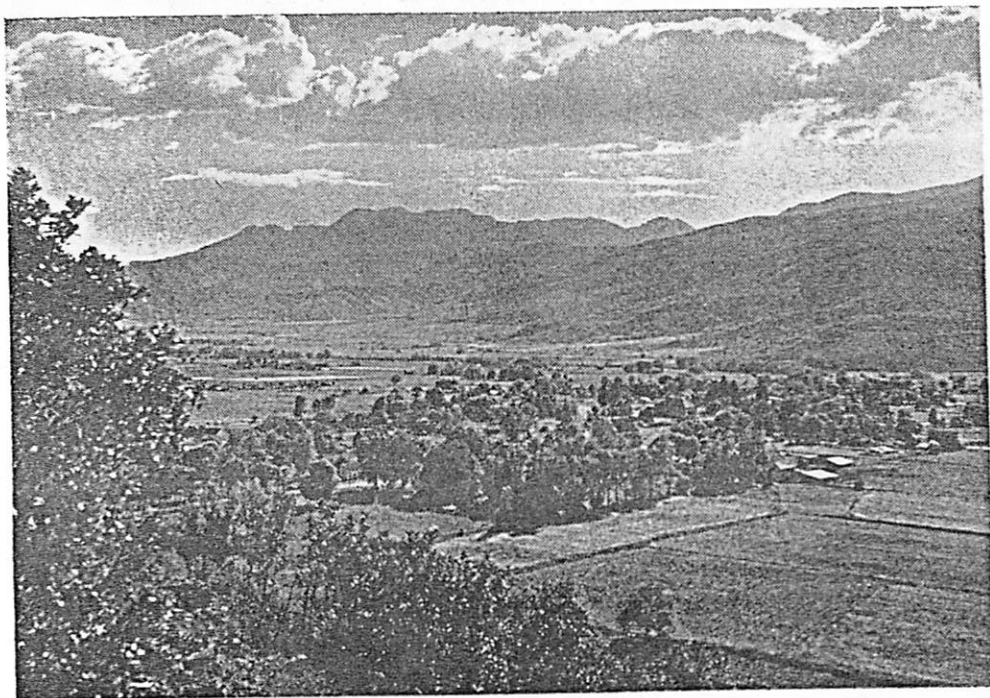
NORTH

John Moser
John Davis
Charles Lowe
Jno. Halpeltz
George Bonner Sr.
Henry Coleman Sr.
George Wilson
William Wilson
John Lowe
Jesse McGarrell
D. Zurelt
James Gurr
Harvey Meeks
Charles Gurnay
Abrasil Shelton
John O'Hail
James Jackson
George Wardle
William Bailey
Nathaniel Riggs

Alward Ephraim
John Watkins
David Van Wagoner
Ephraim Van Wagoner
John Van Wagoner Sr.
James and David Probst
David, James and Andrew Hamilton
Moroni McVirey
H. Moreley
Martin Oaks
Hyrum Oaks
David Wood
Mark Smith
Joseph Forrester
Asenwall Woodson

Fort Midway plan showing location of each family

terrain which slopes up and away from the river to the nearby mountains. The settlement at Heber was designed to take advantage of the water supplied by Lake



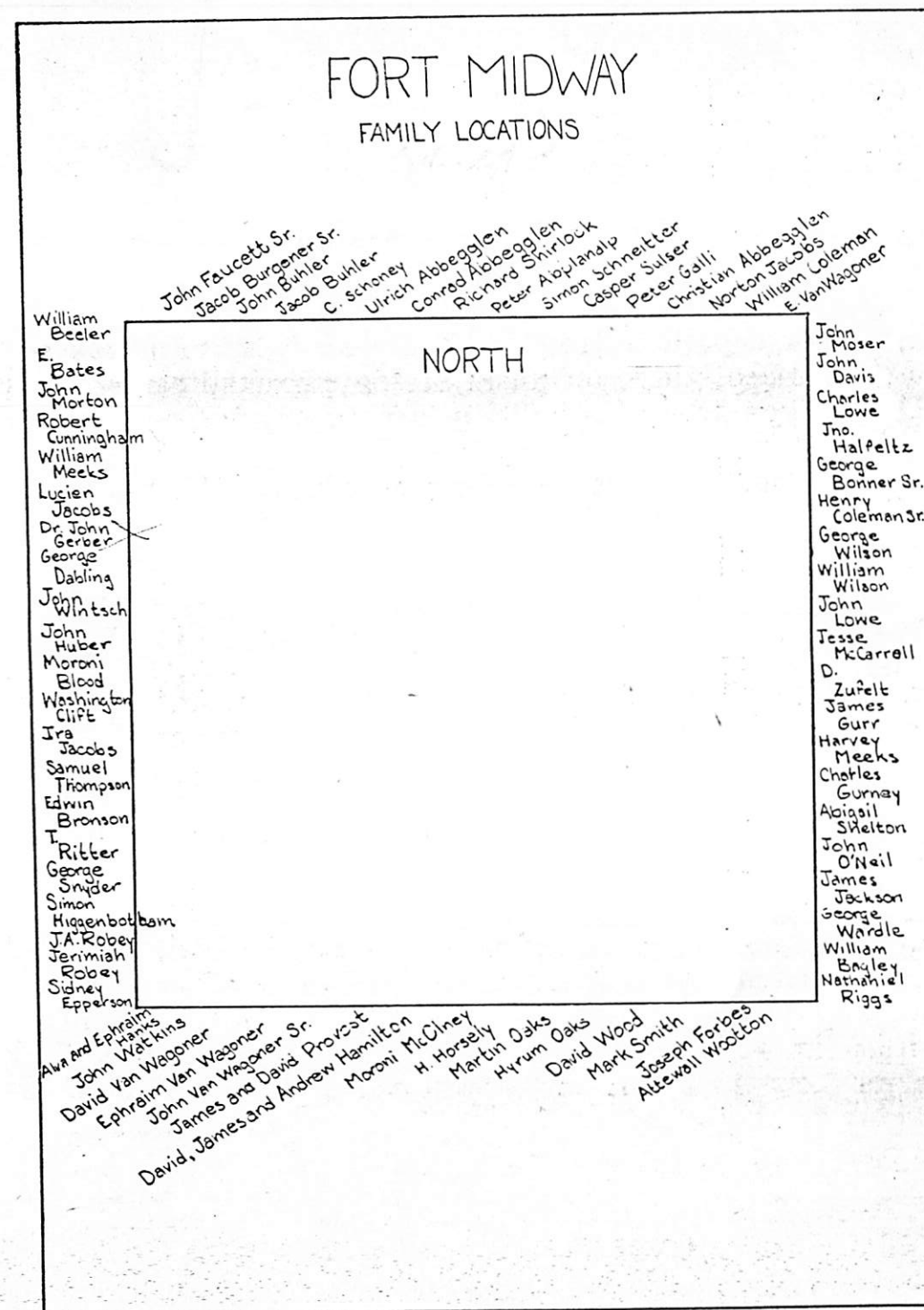
Midway and surrounding area

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At first there was no localized settlement. In the summer of 1859 a group consisting of Jeremiah Robey, Sidney Epperson, Mark Smith, David Wood, Jesse McCarrell, and Edwin Bronson put a crop of grain on the choicest lands bordering Snake Creek.² This was followed by a period of cabin and corral building. Others

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Fort Midway plan showing location of each family